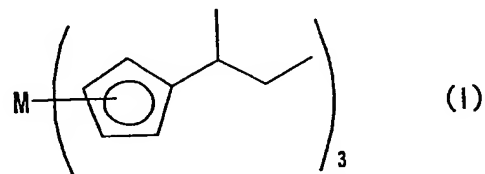


## CLAIMS

1. A tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex of a rare earth metal represented by general formula (I):



5 wherein M represents a rare earth metal atom.

2. The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is yttrium.

3. The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is lanthanum.

10 4. The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is praseodymium.

5. The tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to claim 1, wherein M is erbium.

15 6. A material for thin film formation comprising the tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex according to any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. A process of forming a thin film, comprising vaporizing the material for thin film formation according to claim 6, introducing the resulting vapor containing the tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex onto a substrate, and causing the tris(sec-butylcyclopentadienyl) complex to decompose and/or chemically react to form a rare earth metal-containing thin film on the substrate.

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